

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawings have been submitted as Figure 1. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 10 and 15 are cancelled and claims 1, 9, 11, and 16 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Drawings

The drawings stand objected to as containing illegible text. Replacement drawings have been submitted to provide the Examiner with better quality figures. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,817,966 to Fishman with reference to U.S. Patent No. 5,557,058 to Lace. Claims 6-8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated over Fishman and Lace with reference to U.S. Patent No. 4,251,688 to Furner. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishman in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,913,024 to Cariveau. Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishman in view of Cariveau and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,733,425 to Chaki. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Fishman does not teach or suggest "[a] device for mixing the outputs of two sensors attached to a stringed musical instrument, the device including ... a high pass filter for passing signal components from the body sensor above a second frequency; a mixing circuit for combining the signals passed by the low pass filter and the high pass filter to form a combined

output signal; and control means for enabling a user to simultaneously vary the first frequency of the low pass filter and vary a level of the signal passed by the high pass filter" in combination with all other elements of amended claim 1.

As recited in the Specification, an "under saddle system" refers to "piezoelectric sensors situated between the bridge and the saddle of the instrument, i.e. immediately under the strings." Fishman teaches mixing the signal outputs of signal processing circuits from under saddle sensors, (see Fishman, col.4, lines 35-44), but does not teach "a high pass filter for passing signal components from the body sensor above a second frequency" as recited in claim 1. Also, Fishman is directed to mixing signal components from under saddle sensors having "higher order harmonics," (see Fishman, col. 9, line 1), but is not directed to "a mixing circuit for combining the signals passed by the low pass filter [from the under saddle sensor] and the high pass filter [from the body sensor] to form a combined output signal" as recited in claim 1. Also, Fishman teaches that "[t]he separate signals from the first and second transducers can be separately processed," (see Fishman, col. 12, line 50), but does not teach a "control means for enabling a user to simultaneously vary the first frequency of the low pass filter and vary a lever of the signal passed by the high pass filter" as recited in claim 1.

Neither Lace nor the other references cited in the Office Action overcome the deficiencies of Fishman in relation to claim 1 as amended. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Claims 2-9, 11-14, and 16-20 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Dickson".

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